

# COMMISSION on AGING and DISABILITY

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Report No. 2007-1

March 1, 2007

This report on bills deemed of interest to older persons and disabled adults is compiled periodically during the regular session of the 105th General Assembly. The inclusion or exclusion of any information in this report does not constitute official endorsement for that particular legislative action by the Commission on Aging and Disability or its staff. This report is compiled and distributed solely for general public information purposes.

### Status of Legislation of Interest of the 105th General Assembly, 2007

1. **SB0001 by Jackson / HB0001 by Maddox.** Authorizes the legislative body of local governments to “freeze” property tax liability for individuals 65 years of age or older who own the property as their primary residence and have an annual income of \$60,000 or less. - Amends TCA Title 67, Chapter 5, Part 7. SB0001 was referred to the Senate State & Local Gov. Comm. On 0/20/07. HB0001 was referred to subcommittee Local Government Committee of S L&G on 02/07/07.
2. **SB1078 by Johnson / HB0897 by Sargent.** Authorizes local governments to implement the recently adopted constitutional amendment permitting local programs of tax relief to certain elderly homeowners. - Amends TCA Title 67, Chapter 5, Part 7. SB1078 was filed and introduced on 01/08/07. HB0897 was assigned to s/c Local Government of S&LG on 02/21/07.
3. **SB0308 by Finney / HB2063 by Burchett and Armstrong.** Creates the department of aging and disability and transfers to that department the duties of the commission on aging and disability. - Amends TCA Title 4; Title 8; Title 13; Title 33; Title 34; Title 49; Title 55; Title 56; Title 67; Title 68 and Title 71. SB0309 was introduced and referred to the Senate Government Operations Committee on 02/08/07. HB2063 was filed and introduced, and passed first consideration on 02/21/07.
4. **SB1405 by Kilby / HB1023 by Ferguson.** Establishes a pilot project for home and community-based services for 200 elderly citizens in an urban county. - Amends TCA Title 71. SB1405 was referred to General Welfare, Health and Human Resources Committee on 02/12/07. HB1023 was assigned to Public Health and Family Assistance of Health and Human Resources on 02/21/07.
5. **SB0002 by Norris / HB1033 by DeBerry.** Authorizes counties and municipalities to adopt by resolution or ordinance a program of property tax relief for certain elderly homeowners. - Amends TCA Section 67-5-705. SB0002 was referred to State and Local Government Committee on 01/20/07. HB1033 was assigned to State and Local Government on 02/21/07.
6. **SB1476 by Tate / HB1532 by DeBerry, Lois.** Makes various changes to laws addressing the safety of senior citizens, including safe housing and health care facilities and freedom from exploitation and abuse. - Amends TCA Title 4; Title 33; Title 63; Title 68 and Title 71. SB1476 was referred Senate General Welfare, Health and Human Resource Committee on 02/12/07. HB1532 was assigned to Public Health and Family Assistance of Health and Human Resources on 02/27/07.

7. **SB0334 by McNally / HB1346 by Shepard.** Requires hospitals, during the fall and winter months, to offer elderly inpatients certain immunizations for flu and pneumococcal diseases. - Amends TCA Title 68, Chapter 11, Part 2. SB0334 was placed on Senate General Welfare, Health and Human Resource Committee for 3/7/2007. HB1346 was assigned to Health Care Facilities of Health and Human Resources on 02/27/07.
8. **SB2191 by Kyle and Burks / HB2248 by Odom.** Revises what constitutes the offense of abusing, neglecting, or exploiting an adult; changes criminal classification from a Class A misdemeanor to a Class E felony. - Amends TCA Title 71, Chapter 6, Part 1. SB2191 was referred to Senate Judicial Committee on 02/22/07. HB2248 was filed, introduced, and passed first consideration on 02/21/07.
9. **SB1579 by Herron / HB2137 by Fitzhugh.** Implements the recently adopted constitutional amendment that authorizes counties and cities to implement programs of tax relief for certain elderly homeowners. - Amends TCA Section 67-5-705. SB1579 was filed, introduced, and passed first consideration on 02/08/07. HB2137 was filed, introduced, and passed first consideration on 02/21/07.
10. **SB1050 by Finney / HB1629 by Pitts.** Increases elderly income level on which tax relief can be sought from not exceeding \$20,000 in tax year 2006 to not exceeding \$22,500 in tax year 2008; increases value of elderly residence on which tax relief is available from \$25,000 to \$30,000. - Amends TCA Section 67-5-702. SB1050 passed second consideration and referred to Senate State and Local Government on 02/12/07. HB1629 was assigned to State & Local Government on 02/28/07.
11. **SB0600 by Woodson / HB1960 by Armstrong.** The department of health is authorized to contract with the National Foundation of Dentistry for the Handicapped (NFDH), or other appropriate and qualified nonprofit organization, to establish and administer a donated dental services program through which volunteer dentists, licensed by the state pursuant to this chapter, will provide comprehensive dental care for needy, disabled, elderly and medically compromised individuals that do not have dental insurance and are not eligible for coverage of dental services through another state or federal medical assistance program. Amends TCA Title 63, Chapter 5. SB0600 was placed on Senate General Welfare, Health and Human Resources Committee for 3/7/2007. HB1960 was filed, introduced, and passed first consideration on 02/21/07.
12. **SB1157 by \*Black / HB0941 by \*Maggart.** Authorizes the commission on aging and disability to develop a five-year home and community-based care pilot project for a project that fosters independence for disabled persons needing long-term supports and services and their families. - Amends TCA Title 33; Title 68 and Title 71. SB1157 was referred to Senate General Welfare, Health and Human Resources Committee on 02/12/07. HB0941 was referred assigned to Public Health and Family Assistance of Health and Human Resources on 02/21/07.
13. **SB1145 by Crutchfield / HB1370 by Kernell.** Establishes a "money follows the person" procedure and other mechanisms for nursing home or community care for persons with Medicaid; authorizes nurses to delegate certain health maintenance activities. - Amends TCA Title 63 and Title 71. SB1145 was referred to Senate General Welfare, Health and Human

Resources on 02/12/07. HB1370 was assigned to Public Health and Family Assistance of Health and Human Resources on 02/27/07.

14. **SB0106 by Burchett.** Under present law, a person commits the Class C felony, aggravated assault, who intentionally causes serious bodily injury to another or uses or displays a deadly weapon while in the commission of the Class A misdemeanor, assault. This bill expands the type of conduct that constitutes aggravated assault by adding a person causing or attempting to cause bodily injury to an elderly, pregnant, or disabled person or any person with whom the suspect has a family relationship by strangulation. An actual injury caused by strangulation is not required to support a conviction for aggravated assault under this bill. Amends TCA Title 39, Chapter 13. SB0106 was referred to the Senate Judicial Committee on 02/07/07.

For additional information contact Carolyn Householder, Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability, 615-741-2056, Fax 615-741-3309 or [Carolyn.Householder@state.tn.us](mailto:Carolyn.Householder@state.tn.us). Current reports are posted on the Commission on Aging and Disability Web site at [www.state.tn.us/comaging](http://www.state.tn.us/comaging).